



## THE PHYSICIAN'S *Bookshelf*

**DISEASES OF THE NOSE, THROAT AND EAR—Tenth Edition**—Howard Charles Ballenger, M.D., F.A.C.S., Professor Emeritus of the Department of Otolaryngology, and John Jacob Ballenger, B.S., M.S., M.D., Associate in the Department of Otolaryngology, both from Northwestern University Medical School. Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia, 1957. 968 pages, 550 illustrations and 11 plates, \$17.50.

Like its predecessors, the tenth edition of this classic American text is most comprehensive and well illustrated. Divided into five sections: The Nose and Accessory Sinuses, The Pharynx and Fauces, The Larynx, The Ear, and Bronchology, Esophagology and Gastroscopy, the book is well organized and presents its material concisely and logically. The sections on surgery of the nasal septum and on bronchoesophagology are notably excellent.

The major defect of this new edition is its obsolescence. For the most part, the text is unchanged from previous editions, and is conspicuously uncontaminated by many of the important recent advances in otorhinolaryngology. Where revisions have been made, they are usually added to the old material. As an example of this, the section on stapes mobilization, an operation which has gained a very important place in otology in recent years, occupies only a portion of one page in this text. This is disturbing to the reader, since this volume still devotes long sections to archaic methods of medical and surgical therapy. Although these obsolete techniques are of great historical interest, they occupy a disproportionately large part of the book.

Despite these shortcomings, the tenth edition of Ballenger and Ballenger remains one of the foremost texts in otorhinolaryngology. This volume will be most useful to residents in ear, nose, and throat, and should be a valuable reference on this subject for physicians whose primary interests lie in other fields. Because of the inadequacy of the revisions, the purchase of this edition by physicians who already have this book in its eighth or ninth edition is not recommended.

CHARLES P. LEO, M.D.

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**THE PERSON BEHIND THE DISEASE**—Julius Bauer, M.D., Clinical Professor of Medicine, College of Medical Evangelists, Grune & Stratton, New York, 1956, 136 pages, \$3.50.

"The Person Behind the Disease" is a brilliant tour de force, in which a great clinician, investigator and teacher has brought together ideas from all his works, starting with his earliest quoted article: Zur Funktionsprüfung des vegetativen Nervensystems. Deutsche Arch. klin. Med. 107:39, 1912, and ending with his penultimate revised book: Differential Diagnosis of Internal Diseases. Ed. 2, New York, Grune & Stratton, Inc., 1955. In between, as source material, are his many well known publications dealing with constitution and disease, genetics, endocrinology and psychotherapy, as well as a wide sampling of the literature as indicated in the remainder of the 193 references in the bibliography.

Simply by compressing so much material and so much thought into 136 pages, the author already achieves one

phase of his objective: "To elaborate on the fundamental principles of a holistic concept of medicine." Every appropriate subject is touched upon and related to the notion of the individual as a unique whole. Because the book is so brief, it brings within the convenient grasp of the reader, both literally and figuratively, the many factors which influence individual constitution and which thus individualize illness. It also directs attention to those attributes in the physician necessary to his awareness of the "person behind the disease."

The condensation involved in such brevity also makes for a few inevitable difficulties. The very title, in which precision of meaning is sacrificed to catchiness, indicates the nature of the trouble. While the "elaboration" is broad and rounded in its range, it is necessarily shallow in its depth. Hence, some of the presentations, for instance on genetics and enzymes, may be difficult to follow if the reader is not previously well versed in the subject under consideration. Other presentations, such as some of those subsumed under discussions of psychologic medicine, are arbitrary and dogmatic. On the other hand, it is within just this area that Dr. Bauer makes an exceptionally clear formulation of his own position on the "mind body enigma," stated against the background of various views on the subject, some differing, some supporting: "... it is obvious that mind is attached to the body of the newborn person, and if we are to stay on the firm ground of logic we must conclude that it originated from the genes of the fertilized ovum."

Altogether, it is a pleasure to recommend this small book which so economically integrates for the reader everything he has previously learned about constitution and disease, and at the same time stimulates and directs him to literature which he may wish to explore.

LEONA M. BAYER, M.D.

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**EXPECTANT MOTHERHOOD—Third Edition, Revised**—Nicholson J. Eastman, M.D., Professor of Obstetrics, Johns Hopkins University, Little, Brown and Company, 34 Beacon Street, Boston 6, Mass., 1957. 198 pages, \$1.75.

This book for the prenatal patient is well known to obstetricians and to most other physicians who care for pregnant women. It has been enormously popular during the 17 years of its existence and undoubtedly will continue to be used as an educational device and as a source of answers to most of the questions with which obstetric patients constantly bedevil their doctors. The new edition has precisely the same number of pages as the previous one and there have been few changes in the text. In the discussion of anesthesia, such items as morphine, rectal ether and paraldehyde no longer are mentioned, but these gaps are neatly filled by brief mention of Demerol, Trilene, local anesthesia, and natural childbirth. The advice offered in this volume is a palatable mixture of common sense and science, presented in the lucid and pleasing literary style so characteristic of the author.

C. E. McLENNAN, M.D.